

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the homeschool student will be able to explore the role of a zookeeper through reading activities, improve their reading comprehension skills, and gain a deeper appreciation for the work of zookeepers.

Materials and Prep

- Books or articles about zookeepers
- Writing materials (paper and pencil)
- Computer or tablet with internet access (optional)

Prior knowledge of basic reading skills and comprehension strategies is helpful.

Activities

1. **Read a Book or Article:** Choose a book or article about zookeepers. Read it together or independently, depending on the student's reading level. Encourage the student to take notes or highlight important information.
2. **Discussion:** Have a conversation about the book or article. Ask questions like:
 - What did you learn about the responsibilities of a zookeeper?
 - Why do you think being a zookeeper is important?
 - What challenges do zookeepers face?
3. **Writing Activity:** Ask the student to write a short paragraph or essay about why they would or would not like to be a zookeeper. Encourage them to use evidence from the reading to support their opinion.
4. **Research:** If access to the internet is available, have the student research a specific zookeeper they find interesting. They can create a short biography or profile of that zookeeper.

Talking Points

- "Zookeepers play a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and safety of animals in zoos."
- "They are responsible for feeding the animals, maintaining their habitats, and providing enrichment activities."
- "Zookeepers also monitor the health of the animals and work closely with veterinarians."
- "It's important for zookeepers to have good observational skills and be knowledgeable about different animal species."
- "Zookeepers often have a passion for animals and a desire to educate the public about conservation and wildlife."